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Area Energy & Electric, Inc. Earns Top Performance Award

MRO Suppliers Receive Awards For Safety, Quality, Cost, Development and Management

COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 8, 2010 – At an expanded conference encompassing all its manufacturing operations in Ohio and Indiana for the first time, Honda presented its Supplier of the Year awards to 12 top suppliers in its Maintenance, Repair and Operational (MRO) business areas today for excellence in their business performance.

Numbering approximately 5,000 companies, Honda's MRO suppliers are leading local, regional and national businesses that provide a wide range of goods and services that support product manufacturing. Many have grown with Honda's expanding manufacturing in the United States, and some have opened operations near new Honda plants.

"Today, we are acknowledging an outstanding group of suppliers that exemplify Honda's philosophy of delivering the highest possible value to our customers through their quality products and customer service," said Jan Gansheimer, who manages purchasing for Honda of America Mfg., Inc. "While our industry faces significant challenges, all of us at Honda thank them for their contribution to Honda's success."

Honda invited more than 200 MRO suppliers to the conference this year, which expanded beyond those supplying Honda of America Mfg., Inc. into a regional event that also includes suppliers to Honda Manufacturing of Indiana LLC, and Honda Transmission Manufacturing of America, Inc., in Russells Point, Ohio.

Gansheimer expressed her appreciation to all the suppliers for their efforts to support Honda operations during a historic economic recession and market decline. "You responded by making the necessary changes to keep your companies competitive," she said. "At the same time, you maintained a critical focus on the customer. Your flexibility and willingness to work together have allowed us to weather this storm."

In addition to the awards, the annual conference is an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and set direction for the future in an auto industry that is facing a new reality of increased competition, rapid changes in technology and increasing demands for innovation in environmental

areas. Honda and many of its suppliers have used this period of reduced production to eliminate waste from processes, gain efficiencies and reduce cost.

“The events of the past year have fundamentally changed the auto industry, and there is no going back to ‘normal’,” said Honda of America Senior Vice President Jim Wehrman. “The key to the future lies in our ability to strengthen our core operations, and to quickly make necessary adjustments in line with the needs of society and conditions of the market.”

Companies receiving Honda’s Supplier of the Year awards represent many of these competitive characteristics, by excelling in the key performance areas of safety, quality, cost, development and management. In addition to the 12 recipients recognized as top suppliers in the different MRO categories, three companies received Honda’s Safety Excellence Award for their perfect record and leadership at managing safety performance while at Honda facilities.

MRO suppliers in Honda’s Central Region support manufacturing operations at Honda’s new auto plant in Indiana, which started producing Civics in 2008 and the Civic GX compressed natural gas vehicle in 2009. They also support the operations of Honda’s two auto plants, and engine and transmission plants, in Ohio. The Marysville Auto Plant produces the Accord sedan and coupe, and the Acura TL and RDX. The East Liberty Auto Plant manufactures the new Accord Crosstour, CR-V and Element. In addition to the MRO suppliers, Honda has approximately 600 parts suppliers in North America. The OEM purchases exceeded \$13 billion last year.

Area Energy & Electric, Inc. has been working in the Honda Plants since 1986 and is extremely honored to receive this award. Area is an Industrial/Commercial Electrical and Mechanical Contractor that is based out of Sidney, Ohio, with Branch Offices in Marysville, Worthington, and Greensburg, Indiana. Area currently employs 263 men and women at these locations. Present at the conference to receive the 2010 Honda MRO Supplier Safety Excellence Award were Vice President Joe Lachey and Marysville Branch Manager Scott McCartney. Lachey said “Area Electric is honored to receive this award from Honda and would like to thank our dedicated professional technicians who execute the work in the field; we could not do it without them.”

2010 Honda MRO Supplier Safety Excellence Award

Area Energy & Electric, Inc.
Sidney, Ohio

Honda Recognizes Area Energy & Electric, Inc. for their initiatives to achieve and promote safe work practices while performing Electrical and Mechanical Services at the Honda Facilities.